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Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

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Contact: Jim Springer
(801) 538-5324
jimspringer@utah.gov

UTAH BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING HONORS INDUSTRY EFFORTS TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

Today's mining and oil and gas companies provide natural resources essential to our way of life and accept their responsibility to do so in an environmentally friendly manner. Yet, many of these companies often exceed the regulatory requirements placed upon them. The Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining will recognize five companies for their extraordinary efforts with 2008 Earth Day Awards. The awards will be presented at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 23, 2008, in the auditorium of the Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.

"Our Earth Day Award program was created to recognize companies and individuals that go the extra mile in protecting the environment while developing natural resources," explained Board Chairman Douglas Johnson. "These companies have demonstrated a willingness to do that while providing the minerals and energy resources that each of us uses every day. They are most deserving of this recognition."

Canyon Fuel Company's Skyline and Sufco mines will be recognized for wildlife habitat improvement projects. Skyline Mine improved cutthroat trout habitat in Carbon County's Eccles Canyon, while Sufco took action to improve sage grouse habitat at a site in Sevier County. Denison Mines (USA) Corporation voluntarily repaired flood damage to a previously reclaimed mine site in Garfield County.

Intrepid Potash has invested considerable time and resources in returning 7.9 million tons of salt to the Bonneville Salt Flats to improve the deteriorating surface of that landmark, famous for land speed records and as a location for movies and television. Anadarko Petroleum Corporation elected to drill multiple wells from two conjoined drill pads, and established three evaporation/recycle ponds for produced water. The ponds were designed to allow use of the water for drilling operations thus reducing the need for fresh water, and both projects combined to reduce truck traffic, lessen their footprint in the area and minimize other environmental impacts.

And, Questar Pipeline Company demonstrated an exceptional willingness to reach out to stakeholders during expansion of a pipeline project near Nine Mile Canyon in Carbon County. Their cooperative efforts with concerned groups and agencies minimized visual impacts.

The Board of Oil, Gas and Mining has presented Earth Day Awards since 1991. The essential requirement for receiving an award is that a company, organization or individual must voluntarily perform work that significantly enhances or improves the environment even though such action is not required by law.

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